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Lamont, Iowa, History

1853 - 1953



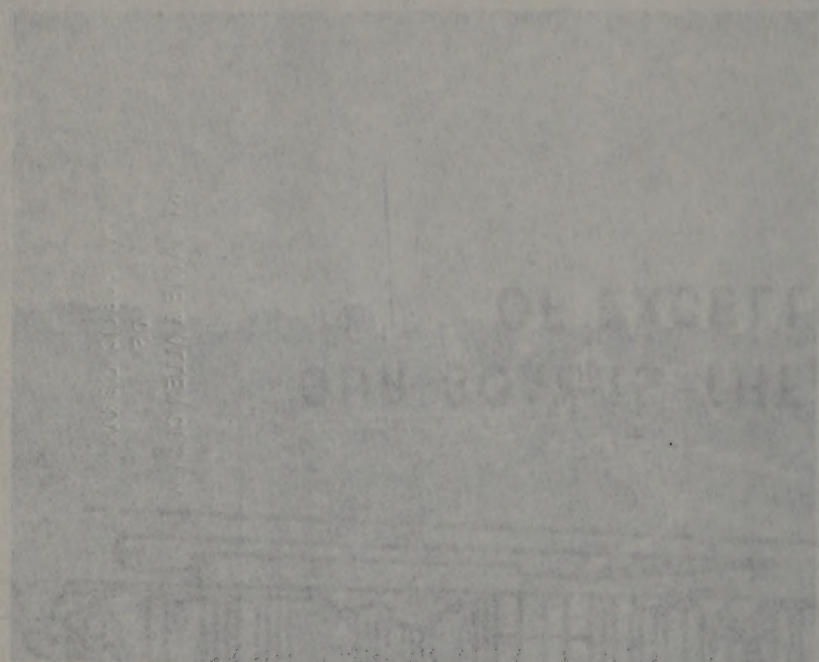
LAMONT IN 1880

Lamont Centennial

June 21 - 22 - 23, 1953

Lamont, Iowa, History

1853 - 1953



LAMONT IN 1850

Lamont Centennial

June 21 - 23, 1953

THE PUBLIC

LAMONT'S HISTORY

1937209

As Written By Rev. J. B. Ward

In the month of may, 1853, a company of immigrants, consisting of Mark Whitney and family and myself and family started from Kane county, Illinois, to find homes in the eastern part of Iowa. Our teams consisted of two pairs of horses and seven yoke of oxen. Each span of horses was hitched to a wagon. Two yokes of oxen were hitched to one wagon and five yoke to another, and while this might seem quite a novelty at the present time in Kane county it was not an unusual occurrence at that time. The railroad only extended as far as Freeport, Ill. After nearly a month's travel through mud and rain and very bad roads the party reached the present site of Lamont on the 1st day of June, 1853. The only sign of civilization to be seen was a partially constructed log house, which had been built by Seymour Whitney, but had not been occupied by him yet.

It might be remarked here that the same house stood until the year 1895, when it was burned down. The site of the old house was on the bank of the creek and was occupied by Albert Bush as a residence for several years.

Here was our first stopping place and at this time of year nothing could be more beautiful. To the east was a belt of timber of excellent quality, and west of us it seemed like an ocean of prairie. The clear streams of water winding their courses through the country, with an occasional bunch of willows to indicate its course, only adding beauty to the scene.

In taking a stand on the hill northeast of town and looking northwest you see the course of the creek, as indicated by the willows to the grove, called Toe Head. It was indeed a beautiful scene—covered with green grass and flowers, deer and wolves running here and there, sand-hill cranes, wild geese and ducks flying everywhere, adding the music of their song to the beauty of the scene. There were also prairie chickens and other birds without number—a paradise for the hunter. Add to this our home the home of our children, and then compare it with the country of our fathers first settled in, where it was all timber and it took so long to clear one acre ready to plow. Here we started the breaking

LAMONT'S HISTORY

1837-1838

As Written By Rev. J. B. Ward

There was our first stopping place and at this time of year nothing could be more beautiful. To the east was a belt of timber of excellent quality, and west of us it seemed like an ocean of prairie. The clear streams of water winding their courses through the country with an occasional bunch of willows to indicate its course, only adding beauty to the scene.

In taking a stand on the hill northeast of town and looking northwest you see the course of the creek as indicated by the willows to the grove, called The Island. It was indeed a beautiful scene—covered with green grass and flowers, deer and wolves running here and there, and hill strewn with bones and ducks flying every where, adding the music of their song to the beauty of the scene. There were also terrific falls, keens and other birds without number—a paradise for the hunter. Add to this our home, the home of our children, and then compare it with the country of our fathers. How settled is the latter, it was all father and it took so long to clear one acre ready to show. Here we started the farming

In the month of May, 1835, a company of immigrants consisting of Mark Whitney and family and myself and family started from Kane County, Illinois, to find homes in the western part of Iowa. Our teams consisted of two yokes of horses and seven yokes of oxen. Each yoke of horses was hitched to a wagon. Two yokes of oxen were hitched to one wagon and five yokes to another, and while this might seem quite a number at the present time in Kane County it was not an unusual occurrence at that time. The railroad only extended as far as Prospect, Ill. After nearly a month's travel through mud and rain and very bad roads the party reached the place of settlement on the 1st day of June, 1835. The only sign of civilization to be seen was a partially constructed fort where a party had been built by Sergeant Whitney, but had not been occupied by him yet. It might be remarked here that the same place stood nearly the year 1835 when it was burned down. The site of the old house was on the bank of the creek and was occupied by Albert Bush as a residence for several years.

plow in the morning and by night had quite a field turned over. Who can tell how inspiring? We were often led to remark "what hath the Lord not done for us?"

The grass afforded fine pasture for our stock, and the first thing we did was to arrange for getting our meals. A cooking stove—Clinton Air Tight Drum Oven was set up under the shade of the trees, and the women set about getting dinner. While waiting, Mark Whitney and myself started with our rifles to find game. We had not gone far when a herd of about twenty deer was sighted a short distance from us. Each took aim and fired, but Mr. Whitney's gun misfired while I found I had wounded one of the largest deer in the herd. He went a few rods and fell dead, and we found him about forty rods from the present sight of Lamont on the bank of the creek. With the assistance of others we dragged him to the camping ground, and in a few minutes had him dressed and a steak cut off and fried for our dinner. It was relished by all and pronounced fine. Few can realize at the present time what a help this was to our living. The deer was a large one and lasted for several weeks.

The company stayed in this locality a few days using their wagons for sleeping apart-

ments, and prepared and ate their meals out of doors.

One morning D. M. Whitney, a son of Mark Whitney, awoke about daylight, and looking out of the wagon saw a large herd of deer and several wolves about half a mile southwest of our camping ground. They seemed to be surveying the situation, and were cautiously eyeing their new neighbors. The horses and cattle were quietly grazing, but with their bells it seemed strange to the wild animals. However they soon learned that the newcomers were not their best friends, and frequent shots from our rifles made them shy.

The balance of the week was spent in selecting our farms. Mark Whitney chose the farm on the county line, and the same was occupied by him until his death. J. G. Ticknor also selected a farm on which he lived a greater part of his life. Scym Whitney had located his claim where Lamont now stands, in the latter part of the year 1852. Joining Mark Whitney's claim on the north was a farm owned by Mr. Harrow and afterwards bought by Silas Ross in the spring of 1853. The same is now owned by C. T. Ross. My claim was chosen north and east of Seymour Whitney's claim, and my place of residence where Thomas Durham now lives.

Mrs. Rolland Smith
Winthrop, Iowa

These were the only claims where there were actual settlers in the immediate neighborhood.

Sunday arriving it was thought best to observe it in religious worship. However there was no church and no minister, not even a house where the meeting could be held. Finally a place was selected under the shadow of a big burr oak tree which stood on the bank of the creek near where the Bishop residence now stands. Here in God's own temple, was the first prayer meeting ever held in this part of the country, and at this meeting the older persons seemed to realize the responsibility of establishing a christian community, so that as the country settled up it might be settled with a consecrated and devoted people. Carefully this was watched in the years following and although many persons came and settled who were irreligious, yet we believed the predominating influence was on the side of Christianity for many years. The young people who were brought up in the neighborhood became a God fearing people, and many of them became excellent christian workers, and over all our broad land many communities have been established in the same manner. The Pilgrim Fathers led the way, and since that time their

example has been followed in many instances, and who say that these has not been prominent factors in establishing this great nation of ours.

Our next thought was to get some breaking done, so that the sod corn might be planted, and thus secure us provisions for the winter. The iron part of a breaking plow had been brought with us, but the beam handles etc., were to be constructed out of timber from the woods. We had few tools, but soon the plow was ready to be taken to the blacksmith shop at Coffin's Grove, twelve miles away. It fell my lot to do the breaking while the others put up a log house.

Very little occurred the first summer worthy of note. Early frost nearly destroyed the sod corn, and the outlook for the winter was not the most promising.

During September of this same year a party of about 200 Indians passed through the country, and a few called at the house where Mrs. Ward was alone with the children. Not knowing their intentions it naturally made her timid. They called for something to eat, and were offered bread, butter and milk. These they refused to take, but were glad to get Johnny cake and meat. They soon passed on and seemed to be a peaceable

band.

The first death that occurred was that of a man by the name of Rufus Conley. He had lived most of the time at my place, but had gone to Buffalo Grove, taken sick and died. No minister being within reach, I was called upon to take charge of the funeral. A rude coffin had been constructed, and we laid him to rest in the western part of Madison township.

Owing to poor health from exposure and hard work, Mrs. Ward and myself decided that we should go back to Illinois for a few month's rest and recreation. Accordingly in February, 1854, we started on our journey of 200 miles with ox team and wagon. We then had four children, the oldest only five years of age and the youngest but two months old. It was quite a perilous journey at this time of year. We succeeded, however, in reaching Warren, Illinois, about half the distance, when the ox team was sold. The wagon and goods were put aboard the freight train. Mrs. Ward, the children and myself took the passenger train to Elgin, our destination.

The following October, 1854 we again started for our new home in Iowa, arriving there on the first day of November. Very little improvement had been made except breaking done and log houses built. It was my good fortune to shoot

a deer on the first day of our arrival, and with our keen appetites in this new country venison was a real relish, and even in this day and age it would be a welcome dish.

I bought the crops that had been raised on my place, repaired the log shanty and went into winter quarters with provisions enough for the year.

A little incident occurred in the latter part of November which is worthy of note. Mrs. Ward, the children and myself started with ox team and wagon to look at some timber I had bought, and which lay east of Thomas Duham's place.

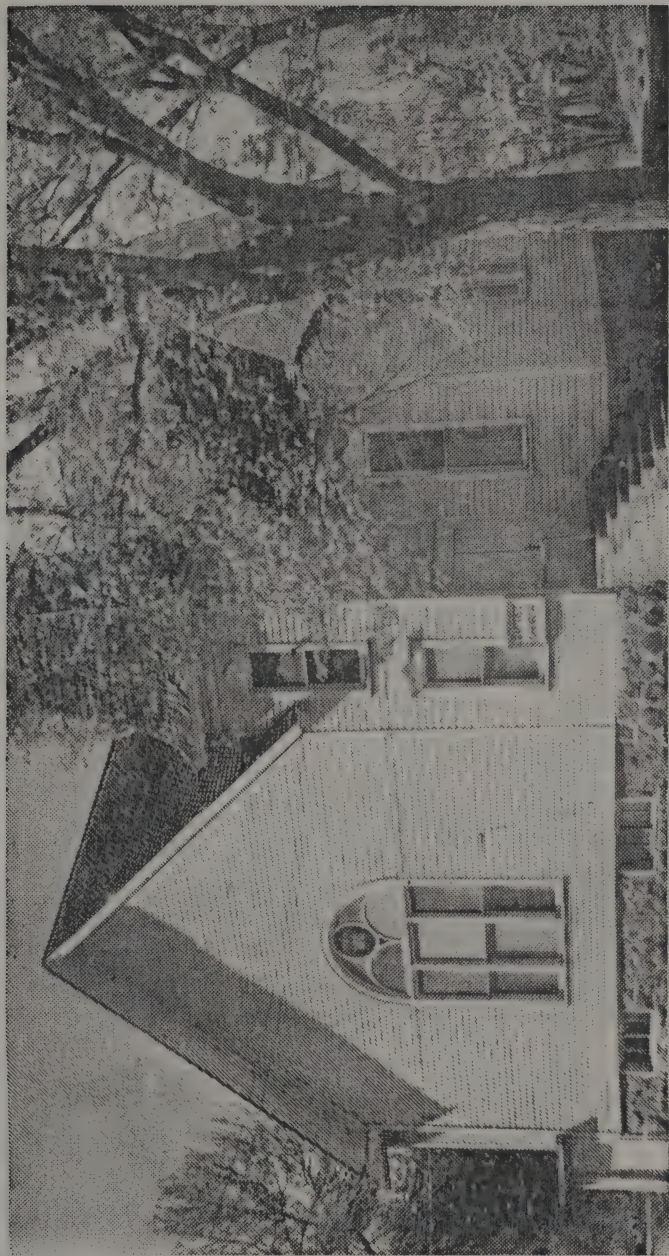
Coming near where Nelson Davis afterwards built his farm residence I saw in the brush what resembled a deer, but being about eighty rods distant from it I thought I would wait until I came nearer before shooting.

When within about twenty rods up bounded a large deer with great long horns. A shot from my rifle brought him down, and then came the task of getting him in the wagon. Mrs. Ward and myself decided that we could pull him into the wagon box, but just as we were getting him into the wagon our little boys, four in number, became frightened at the huge horns and jumped over the end-gate onto the tongue and under the oxen, and for a time we thought



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

On April 10, 1858, a small band of people organized a Baptist congregation. They hired Rev. George Scott of Strawberry Point to preach every four weeks. In 1867 it was decided to build a church. This was built approximately where the fire house now stands. The church was moved to the location where Pearl Adams' house is now located in 1893 and was remodeled. On Feb. 17, 1894, the congregation held a covenant meeting in the new church. It was dedicated May 6th, 1894.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT PRESENT

This building was erected in 1898 by the Free Will Baptists. At this time it was a mere frame of a church and was occupied by the Free Baptists until 1914 when they agreed to hold meetings with the First Baptist Church. Later in that same year both congregations, now combined, held meetings in this church and in 1915 it was completely remodeled and an addition built on the west side so that the exterior looked as it does at present. The interior was completely redecorated in April, 1951.

The present pastor is Rev. J. R. Dikkers.

some of them must certainly be killed, but owing to the gentleness of the oxen the boys were not hurt, and we finally got both the boys and deer into the wagon and started home. The deer was dressed and put away for winters use. It was sufficient to last most of the winter.

Flouring mills were about twenty-five miles away, having to go to Quasqueton or Delhi. Schools were not forgotten in those early days. The settlers came together and decided a school house should be built, and as a result, a log school house was built on a site about one mile east of Lamont. The first school was taught by a young lady from Forestville. This was in the winter of 1854-55. The following summer the school was taught by Juna Whitney, who afterwards married Geo. Arbegust.

In the spring of 1855 a Sunday school was organized, with myself as superintendent. Religious meetings were regularly held in connection with the Sunday school.

By act of congress in 1855 public lands in this section were reduced to 75 cents per acre, consequently there was a large immigration to this section in that year.

In the spring of '55 the following families arrived and settled in what was afterwards Madison township, but at that time was a part of

Buffalo Grove township: Chas. Richmond and wife and four boys—Ira, Lewis, Reuben and Alonsou: John Marsell and wife; Eli Braman and wife and two daughters—Lucindia and Mira; Warren Braman and wife; Peter Braman; Justus Ward, wife and two boys—Frank and Erastus; L. R. Ward, wife and three children—Wilber, Adelaid and Sidney; Wallace and Geo. Emerson with their aged parents—the father was pensioner of the 1812; N. R. Whitman and wife and seven children—Lydia, Omar, Russ, Carol, Webster, Hannah and Mary; Abner Fowler, wife and three children—David, Oliver and Betsy; C. O. Hewitt and family. Mrs. Bidwell and two sons; John Litchfield and wife; Mrs. Secord and Benjamin Hall. In the Autumn several families arrived and became permanent settlers. They were: Eleazer Pattee, wife and two children; A. D. Pattee and wife; Stephen Paxon and family and Hiram Bond and family.

In the spring of 1855, I was elected justice of the peace, and one of my first official acts was the marriage of Benjamin Hall to Mrs. Bidwell. This was the first wedding to occur in this locality.

A large amount of breaking had been done during the year 1856. Crops were good on land that had been previously broken, and everything pro-

mised well for the settlers in the new country.

As we glance back and note the character of the early settlers we do not wonder that the settlement was known as being thrifty, honest and industrious.

Among their first considerations was the church and the school. It was believed that if they could flourish the community was comparatively safe. And those who are familiar with the early history of Lamont will bear me out in saying that religion and education received the first attention of the people.

In 1856 several families arrived and settled here. Among whom were D. M. Brown and family, John Parker and family and Truman Allen and family, Wm. Quick and family.

Up to this date Buffalo Grove township included Madison township, but during the year a petition was sent to the county judge to form Madison township. This the judge refused to do, as the people in the western part of the township had more influence with the judge than those in the eastern part, but during the election that same year it proved that those living in the eastern part of the township were developing considerable strength and came near electing the town officers.

Those who had opposed the

organization of Madison township now dropped their opposition and were glad to help matters along, and Madison township was organized in March, 1857.

But to go back to 1856. We must chronicle now perhaps the worst time the early settlers ever experienced. The winter of 1856-7 was extremely severe. Snow was very deep and the distance to the mill and for timber made matters hard for the people. Some houses were built of logs and made as comfortable as possible by filling the cracks with mud. Others were built of slabs procured at the saw-mill. These slab houses were generally built by getting some square timbers to be used as sills and plates; the ends of the slabs were hewed to an even thickness—about two inches—and nailed to the sill and plate with bark inside. The outside was nailed with bark on the outside, so the flat surface of the slabs would come together. Then the roof was put on in the same way. Usually only one door and one or two windows were in each house. Imagine people living in houses like these in an extremely hard winter. Vituals would almost freeze on the table, and cases occurred where tea froze in cups while the family were eating breakfast. The men often froze their feet and hands while after wood. If the early set-

tlers had only known how to build a genuine Nebraska dug-out much suffering might have been avoided. A hole dug in the ground, with stairs leading down to the bottom, and covered with hay, poles and dirt was a much more comfortable place than the log or slab house to spend the winter in.

In order that the women need not freeze their feet while washing dishes they would heat boards and stand on them, but with all the precautions possible many had their feet frozen so badly that it took most of the next summer for them to recover from the effects.

During this winter occurred almost the extermination of the deer. There was a hard crust on the deep snow and travel was almost impossible except in the beaten roads or paths. The Indians understood that the deer could easily be killed off, but there was a law among them that at such times only what was actually needed for food should be killed. But how different with the white hunters. It was their ambition to kill all the game possible, regardless of whether it meant the extermination of the game or not. The hunters came from Dubuque and elsewhere, and with dog and gun they soon killed off all the deer that could be found, and loading them in their sleds took them

to Dubuque and sold them to the miners. This was done against the earnest protest of the settlers.

Owing to a division of the school districts in 1856, the old log school was not needed for school purposes. A school district was formed including the present site of Lamont. School was held in the home of J.B. Ward, and was taught by Lucinda Braman. In the winter of 1856-7 school was taught by Mary Prebble in the same house.

Religious services were also held there. A Methodist class was organized in the spring of '56, regular services being held with occasional preaching. In this same year the post-office also was established with J.B. Ward as postmaster. The postoffice was named Erie.

The mail was carried by stage by Wm. Dana, and the route was by way of Erie from Independence to Strawberry Point. The stage started from Independence on Monday, passing through Erie and returning on Friday morning.

Among the sad occurrences in the early history of Lamont was the death of Mr. Farnsworth. He had come with his family and located near what was known as Toe Head Grove. They erected a shed of poles, covered with hay, for temporary stopping place. In this the man was ta-

ken sick and died. Mrs. Ward and myself went to the scene and found the body lying on a pile of hay in a corner of the shed with a quilt thrown over it. A few friends were gathered there, but the family of the deceased were in Buffalo Grove. The scene in that pioneer's home was desolate indeed. We constructed a rude coffin, and consigned to mother earth the remains of our friend and neighbor.

In the winter of 1856-57, occurred a death which brought sadness to the hearts of all in this community. It was the death of Alonsou Richmond. Chas. Richmond, his father, had gone into the northern pineries to earn money with which to improve his farm. His wife, Aunt Lavina Richmond, was left with her two sons, Lewis and Alonsou, to work the farm. Their house became so extremely cold that they were compelled to move in with the family of Eli Braman, who lived where the residence of Geo. Anderson now stands. Alonsou, then a young man of 19 years, was taken sick and died. At that time no cemetery had been selected, but a site was then chosen and became our permanent burying place. No minister could be secured, and no undertaker to furnish a coffin could be found. D. M. Brown gathered a few boards together and constructed a

rude coffin. The first grave in the new cemetery was dug and all that was earthly of Alonsou Richmond was consigned to the grave.

The christian fortitude of his good mother under the trying ordeal was remarkable. No one heard her utter a word of complaint, and her face wore that same peaceful calm expression as she had under pleasant surroundings. Her every word and action seemed to say, "Thy will be done."

The funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Geo. Scott the following summer.

As already stated, Madison township was organized in 1857. It is impossible at this late date to mention the names of all the officers elected at the first election, but as I remember Seth Paxson and John Marsell were chosen trustees, J. B. Ward and Chas. Bennet were elected justices of the peace, and Lewis Richmond was our first constable.

With the advent of 1857, came the panic, and brought disaster and ruin to many. Prices went almost to nothing. There was a small home demand for farm produce, but after this was supplied it was impossible to realize anything from what the farmer had for sale. A few stayed and stood the test. These laid the foundation for a prosperous settlement. Others

sold their land as low as \$1.50 per acre and left for other parts.

During this summer the log school house was constructed on a site near the cemetery. This was to be the place where school and town meetings were held. Being centrally located it at once became the place where meetings were well attended and a general interest was manifested. Very few settlers arrived in the year 1857, and the little colony had hard work to hold its own.

The following winter there came a lady evangelist, Mrs. Bixby, and held a series of meetings. There was a general awakening in religious interest. Sinners were converted, backsliders reclaimed and christian people revived. This was really the encouraging feature in all the discouraging circumstances through which the people were called to pass.

Mrs. Bixby will long be remembered by the early settlers. And in her annual meetings many will acknowledge that it was through her influences that they were led to live better lives. And who can measure the good which may result from such devoted and consecrated life as hers. Mr. Bixby, her husband, often accompanied her in the meetings and was considered a faithful and earnest worker for the Master. He still sur-

vives and lives at Edgewood.

As a result of the meeting a Baptist church was organized in the spring of 1858, with the following chapter members: John Marsell and wife, Silas Ross and wife, Chas. Richmond and wife, Seymour Whitney and wife, J. B. Ward and wife, and Orrin Ross.

The three churches were now on solid foundation and worked harmoniously together for the good of the community. A Free Will Baptist church had previously been organized in the neighborhood, and services were regularly held for some time in the log school house and afterward a church was built which still is occupied by them. As I remember, Rev. Alger organized the M.E. church, Rev. Scott the Baptist church and Rev. Bixby and Rev. Smith the Free Will Baptist church.

At the opening of the year 1860 we find that hard times still continue and most people are somewhat discouraged.

Extremely low prices prevailed for farm products. Manchester and Independence were railroad towns, and the only markets within reasonable distance. Groceries, clothing, and in fact most the farmer had to buy, were very high compared with the price of grain, etc. Farmers had to be content with simply making a living and gave up the

idea of making money. Land in the year 1860 was only worth from \$2. to \$2.50 per acre; and still the country was constantly being settled up and improved. As we recollect, there were only four school houses in the township, located as follows: One in the western part of the township near Buffalo Grove, another near Mark Whitney's place, known as Campton school house; another near what was known as the Sager district, and the old log school house near Geo. Anderson's place.

School houses at this time were used for church and school purposes.

Fencing with barbed wire was unknown and it was amusing to see the way people fenced their farms. Most of the material for fencing was brought from Brush Creek timber and near Forestville. Farmers had to draw their material in the winter time; and had to start from home before daylight and not return until after dark. This was very tedious, especially in stormy, cold weather. Owing to these exposures and hardships many had their health permanently injured. Where nails could not be bought, other means had to be used for fastening the rails to the posts. Some would mortise the posts and insert the rails in the mortise; others would get green willows

and tie the rails to the posts. This latter method did not succeed so well, as the unruly lads of the place would take their jackknives and cut the willows and the rails would drop off and cattle would get into the crops. Sometimes the old-fashioned stake and rider fence would be built. But what an immense sight of work to fence a small crop. Perhaps it would take several months to fence an 80 acre farm. Now a man can load some barbed wire and posts onto his wagon and in a day or two can fence an 80 acre farm. We wonder now how the people used to get along in those days, but take it all in all perhaps there was not so much difference after all. One thing seems quite certain--that the younger generation does not appreciate the improvements of late years. We are living in a fast age. The rush and worry and work are prevalent everywhere. People are trying to do too much

We cannot overlook the political situation at this time. A dark cloud was resting heavily over our nation, and where is the neighborhood that did not feel its gloom? Madison township took an active interest in national affairs, and as the war clouds gathered the feeling was intense.

During this summer occurred the nomination of Abra-

ham Lincoln for president of the United States. Other nominations were made by different parties, but their names have almost passed out of memory. But little did we realize at that time how the name of Abraham Lincoln would rise in grandeur above all others, and the grand and noble Lincoln would be called the saviour of our country. Madison township was always strongly antislavery. Although a few were found who were leaning the other way "Wide Awake" clubs were formed. Meetings were held and much enthusiasm manifested. After election was over and the votes counted a few of us started with the election returns to Independence, the County seat, reaching there about midnight. On arriving we found a large crowd still there, and when the result of the election was announced a rousing cheer was given for Madison township.

So the campaign closed, and all acknowledged that it was one of the most exciting campaigns the country ever passed through.

Shortly after this occurred the firing upon Fort Sumpter.

The people were then aroused as never before. A blow had been struck at the nation. What should be done? Brother fighting against brother!

The nation must be preserved. So the people of Madison township felt and so they

acted. With what suspense did the people wait for the inaugural address of the president. It was learned in Madison township that a copy had been received at Buffalo Grove. Some men were sent and soon a copy was brought and read to the waiting crowd.

Two items were of special interest. "The Union must be preserved." The property that had been taken by the south must be returned.

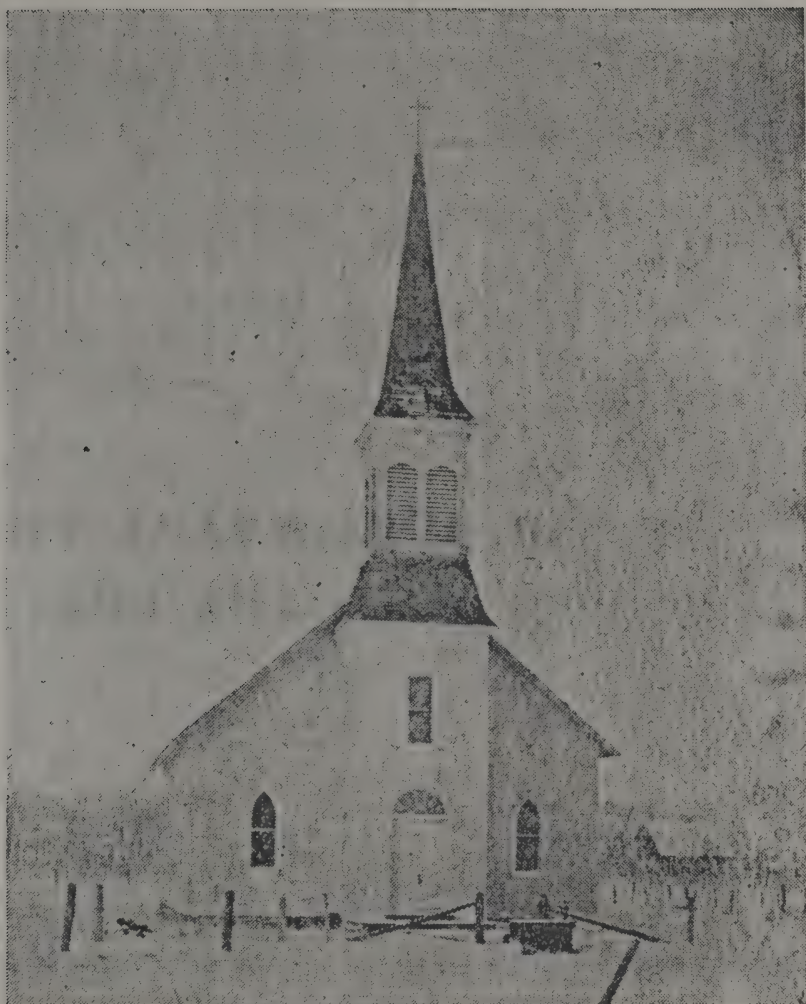
At the call of Lincoln for volunteers the question arose. Who will go? And while the first call was but for 75,000, the second came for 500,000, and that every locality must respond, and among them Madison township must send her share. Who can be spared. Could the father go while his family were depending on him for support? Could the parents see their boys start for the seat of war and likely never to return? These were perilous times and men's hearts were tried as never before and as we look back at those sorrowful days we remember how many of the young men of Madison township went at their country's call and enlisted under the banner of the United States but never did return. They found their final resting places in the far away sunny south without father or mother, brother or sister to sooth them in the dying hour.

We give a few examples of

sacrifice that came under our immediate observation. Samuel Paxton, a promising young man whom everybody loved that knew him, enlisted and on his first trip he took violent cold and came home on a furlough but never to return. He died shortly after coming home. Calvin Pattee, son of Eleazer and Cyrene Pattee, living with his father and mother, expected to care for them in old age, enlisted and served his country until death overtake him. N. R. Whitman sent three boys. Omar died in Libby prison amid the terrible scenes there of suffering and abuse. Russ and Carrol returned home after honorable discharge. Among others who went from Madison township were David Griffith, David Fowler, Nelson Bennet, C.O. Hewitt, Miron Hadley, Mr. Burgess, Wm. Marshal.

Let us look back for awhile at the home life of Madison township. Many had gone to war. Many homes had been made desolate and still the people kept busy with their farm work. As already stated I was elected supervisor of Madison township. Some lively discussions were had on the board in regard to soldier's bounties. On my way to a board meeting at Independence when the bounty question was to come up a farmer came out and stopped me, and in a whining voice and con-

temptible demeanor said: "Mr. Ward, I want you to use your influence against the soldier's bounty. The rebellion can never be put down. It will only increase our taxes and burden us with debt. Now my advice to you is to vote that bounty down." I thought that if all the people were like him the rebellion never would be put down. But this man's actions set me more than ever in favor of doing all I could to secure the passage of the bill. My enthusiasm had been aroused and I plead as best I could for the soldier. The court room was crowded, and by the time I had finished my talk it was very apparent the audience was on my side and started to cheer me, but the chairman, being opposed to the bill, said, "We must have order," but a vote was called and the bill passed by a good majority. After the passage of the bounty bill there was considerable work to get the bounty properly distributed. In the first place some soldiers had enlisted in Deleware and Clayton counties. This had to be corrected and their names properly credited to Buchanan county and then the records must show that they were residents of Madison township before the county bounty could be secured. County warrants were worth only 80 cents on the dollar. So the \$50 bounty each sold-



FIRST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pioneer Catholic settlers were of Bohemian, Irish, and German descent. The Holy Sacrifice of the mass was offered then in the private homes of these settlers by Fathers Murtagh and O'Connor.

Three lots were bought in about 1895 and in 1896 the first Catholic church was ready for use, and dedicated in the same year, under the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

Lamont was for a while an out-mission of Hazleton, attended at various times by Fathers Grady, O'Donnell, McNamee and later Father Nicholas Homan.



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Reverend Joseph E. Linkenmeyer became resident pastor in 1917. In 1923 a new addition was made to St. Mary's Church, increasing the size to the present.

Father Linkenmeyer left in 1928, to be succeeded by Fathers Mayer, and Clune. In 1931 Father Joseph F. Wiehl became pastor. He remained until 1939. Father Gorecki came then who remained until May 1942.

Father Joseph W. Bohr became pastor in 1942. Many repairs were made during this time and the new St. Mary's Hall was constructed at the cost of \$75,000. Thomas Yonda and Clem Friedman directed the construction.

The Parish is now 36 years old and claims two priests. Father George Foffel in 1929. Father Herbert Tegler in 1953.

ier received was only worth \$40 and had to be taken generally in store accounts. The price of grain advanced quite materially, but the purchasing power of the dollar was not very much increased on account of the advance in prices of what we bought. Still it was a good time to pay debts, and those who were wise took advantage of this and squared accounts.

Lewis Richmond sold a hog for almost \$50, Eleazer Pattee one for \$40; oats and corn brought 50 and 60 cents; wheat also brought a good price. On the other hand we had to pay high prices for what we bought. Calico sold for 50 cents per yard, muslin the same; boots \$8 to \$10 per pair; coffee 50c and tea 75c to \$1.50 per pound.

In every community there are silent influences which are tending to elevate or debase. These forces are everywhere and assert themselves in one way or another. Happy is that community the majority of whose people are actuated by pure motives, the trend of whose lives are upward and onward. In the history of our own country how many instances we read of where people have settled in localities and laid the foundations for prosperous and God-Fearing settlements.

Harriet Beecher Stowe in "Old Town Folks" gives us illustrations of settlements

found in New England, and as we note the character of the settlers we do not wonder that from such influences have sprung the best men of our nation. Such men of sterling worth were fit to establish communities all over our broad land. And it is no surprise that such men should come forth as Washington, Webster, Clay, Lincoln, Garfield, and hosts of others.

Do we think that this has all come about by chance? Has our government come to its greatness and grandeur without certain causes? So long as our neighborhoods, villages, towns, and cities can be governed and controlled by right influences so long our country is safe. Let us go a little farther and say that so long as our home life is pure our nation will continue to move in the right direction but if otherwise, it must fail.

Oftentimes we fail to appreciate efforts that are made with the view to benefit the community in which we live.

It is especially so with the teachers' work, and it is with this in view that we will give as best we can the history of the public school of Madison township. We are certain that we cannot do justice to each and every teacher. In fact, at this late date it will be impossible to recall many of them.

As already given, there was

a log school house built in the first place about one mile east of the present site of Lamont. The first term was taught by a lady from Forestville, the second term by Julia Whitney, and afterwards by Julia Arbegust. School was then held for a time in the house of J. B. Ward. Soon, however, a log school house was built near Geo. Anderson's farm. This answered for school purposes until the new frame school house was built near Lewis Richmond's place. But perhaps the schools taught in the old log house did more towards building up a strong moral influence in Ward's Corners and vicinity than the schools taught in later years. Perhaps we are partial to the old log school house, but as we remember the class of young people who attended there and have watched them take their places in different localities, we wonder if a larger percentage could be found who have become useful and influential citizens than went out from the old log school house. I think it will be acknowledged by all that the school at Ward's Corners was the most important school of the township and in fact for many miles around. Among the teachers who taught in the early days were: Calvin Patten, Lucinda Braman, Mary Prebble, Mrs. Day, John Bogue, Mr. Howard, Miss

Edgecomb, Miss Thompson, Ida Farr. There were others probably whose names we have forgotten. But among the most prominent teachers of this school was Wm. Quick, who taught for several successive terms. He was considered one of the best teachers in the country and there is probably no part in his life upon which he can look with more satisfaction than when he was moulding and forming the characters of his pupils in the old log school house.

Another prominent school district was the Buffalo Grove district. It was a union district, part of its territory being in Buffalo Grove township. It had the reputation of being a first class school. It could say more than most country schools and that was two of its teachers became county superintendents, Mr. Ely and W. E. Parker, the last named holding the office for a number of successive terms and becoming one of the leading educators of the state. The first log school house was built across the road from the present one. It was afterwards moved near Hawley Smith's place and occupied till the new frame home was erected. Among the teachers in early days were Miss Wheeler, Jane Bennett, who taught three terms; Frank Hammond, three terms; John Russell, two terms.

One other school in F. W.

Young's district deserves mention. The school house was built about 1868. C. T. Ross was among the first teachers, if not the first, who taught school in this district. He was one of the pioneer teachers of Madison township. Following Mr. Ross in the Young district was Dayton Ward, who taught three successive terms: Marian Coleman, who taught one term in the same district.

Mr. Sager's district was organized at an early date, and had some excellent teachers. Among them were C. T. Ross, Marian Coleman, and others whose names we do not recall. The school district at Compton was a union district, with the school house located in Delaware county. This district was closely connected with the early history of Madison township, and was always considered a prominent school. Mr. Quick was called to teach several terms in this school. The school district where David Van Vorse lived on his farm in the northwest part of the township also had some excellent teachers. Among them was Sarah Kenyon.

The history of the township has a bright future before it if its citizens will be on the alert to guard carefully the interests of its schools and other influences which may become a power for good. See that your children are taught

so they will fill your places and be a credit to the community in which they live. May right prevail and Madison township ever be an honor to the place.

As I have stated, meetings and school were held in my log house, but it soon became too small to answer. The next thing must be a school house. The log school at Ward's Corners was built and this being built in so early a day it was a great burden for some of us, who still feel the effects of it financially. Here a revival meeting was held and nearly all within quite a distance were converted. The Regular Baptist church was then organized this making three organizations Methodist Episcopal, Free Will Baptist and Regular Baptist. We all held our meetings in the same school house for sometime, and let me say the very best feeling of union existed. This was remarked by all, and a remarkable degree of spirituality prevailed. Esq. Thompson once said that the M. E. quarterly meetings seemed as though he was attending a grand revival meeting. No one could tell what denomination they belonged to. All attended the meetings, and all spoke alike in conference meeting. With this strong influence in favor of religion it soon became evident that we must have a church edifice large enough to hold the people.

The Free Will Baptists by this time found the center of their church was near Mark Whitney's on the county line east, and consequently moved their meetings to the school house at that place and soon commenced to build a church edifice at the same place. This was soon finished and has been used until the present. The question of building at Ward's Corners was soon decided, and as the Baptists were at this time the strongest they were to take the lead, with the understanding the M. E.'s were to do all they could and we should all occupy the church the same as we had the school house. When about to move our meetings and Sunday School the class leader said to me, as I was pastor of the Baptist church and had been for some time, "I guess we will remain in the school house." I said, "No, you won't." That settled it. We all went to the church, and to this place we gathered in all classes, old and young, from far and near. Such large Bible classes, led by Mr. Bush, and the young people's Bible class, led by different ones, principally F. W. Young, John Grey, etc. As has been stated before, most all, especially the young people were converted, and Ward's Corners may well be proud of her record.

Among those deeply interested in the welfare, spiritually and otherwise, were such

men as Mark Whitney, Tickner, Ross, Paxson, Marsell, Parker, Gray, Alden Whitney, D. M. Brown, Hewitt, Seymour Whitney, and many others, and as one of the leading ones O. S. Fowler has stood among the first, always ready to do all in his power for the cause, spending time and money. There are many others. Even among the first Father Pattee will long be remembered as a power for good. Now with all this influence it need not be wondered that such a power for good was exerted and that its influence was so wide spread. I know of no place of its size that has exerted anything like the influence for good Ward's Corners has.

Let me say that there I have spent the best part of my life. One of our little ones lies there. There I had been at home, and in no other place do I ever expect to be as much at home.

Permit me say in conclusion: Let the different churches be at peace with each other. Labor as far as consistent together for the cause of Christ. You need not sacrifice principle, but let the spirit of Christ prevail in your midst. Do not forget the Sunday School, nor the common school. You have a beautiful place; make it so by your lives.

J. B. Ward

Later History

To give a definite later history of Lamont we will have to intrude on the early history. Some time in the late sixties Mr. Ward built a feed, saw and sorghum mill down where the brick kiln now stands. The mill must have been a profitable venture, as the farmers annually hauled hundreds of loads of molasses, grain, buckwheat, etc. The sawmill also was of considerable note. In 1870 Lewis Windenburgh and G. M. Foster each has 2,000 feet of pine lumber sawed. The logs were hauled from the backbone. In 1870 Ed Rolf ran a boat and shoe store near the mill. G. M. Foster talked about starting a small grocery store at the mill, but before he got his plans all laid, Willis Durfey bought land and put up the main part of the building now owned by Mrs. Bourgeoise, and started the first store, and kept the postoffice there. About 1873 or 74 Wm. Quick built the building where Dr. Ward now lives and put in a general store. In 1874 the old creamery was built. D. M. Whitney and E. S. Tickner built a store where the cooper shop now stands. Willis Durfey ran his store a few years when he sold out to Jerome Durfey, who ran the store and postoffice until 1879, when G. M. Foster bought him out and controlled the same until 1882. He also

bought Whitney & Tickner out, but just before the railroad was built sold a half interest to G. F. Durham. Mr. H. S. Hill bought out Wm. Quick's stock of goods. One of the first stores was one run on Geo. Anderson's farm by Mr. Rennels.

To anyone who has not lived in Lamont for the last 15 years, it does not seem possible that such changes could have been made in such a short time.

Lamont, or rather Ward's Corners, boasted of about 23 buildings, 18 or 20 families nestled together under the illusion that they made a town. That was Lamont 15 years ago. The three little stores before mentioned were doing a thriving business. The M. E. church occupied the same place as at the present time. The Baptist church was just back of Dr. Richardson's office, but has since been moved to its present location and remodeled to the fine building it now is.

The manufacturing interests were vested in one blacksmith shop, owned by Mr. Bishop, and the creamery.

Mail came twice a week by stage from Manchester. At its arrival you would hear the driver blowing his tin horn, and soon the quiet little town became alive with people. Ward's Corners was a lively little village. On Saturday night its drum corps

would turn out to practice, and the farmers came in to chat with their neighbors. Foot racing and horse racing was also a principal attraction on Saturday evening.

The first school we attended was under the tutorship of Jas. F. Gray in the school house now made into Foster Bros. store building, and located where the Hartwell home now is. If we remember right, no one could handle that school but Jim. It was the toughest school we ever saw, yet without exception you cannot find a better or brighter class of men than those who graduated from that same school.

The general appearance of the country around has changed but little. The only thing to any extent noticeable is the decrease in the area of slough land. Only a few years ago the creek running through town was bordered by a net of willows, hazel brush and stubby trees and underbrush. These have all been cleared up, and as a result the creek has been slowly drying up. As a proof of this, ten years ago there were numerous places from 10 to 15 feet deep within a mile of Lamont, while today we doubt if there is a single place 10 feet deep.

We have tried to give you a fair impression of Ward's Corners 15 years ago. For a small town Ward's Corners was always wide awake and watchful. The early settlers

had great hopes for Lamont's future, and saw that the town was bound to grow.

In 1883 the town concluded that it had outgrown the appellation of Ward's Corners, and on a vote the name was changed to Lamont.

About this time it began to be rumored about that a railroad would be built from Dubuque to St. Paul, passing through this section of the country. Soon the rumor was verified by the appearance of the surveyors and everyone was elated. As soon as the right of way men appeared the question of where the town should be located began to be agitated and it made a big difference about settling for the right of way too. Campton was in the field early and did everything possible to secure it, but the citizens of Lamont were not asleep and finally secured the depot by giving the depot grounds and two thousand dollars. As soon as the depot was located everything began to take a more business like appearance.

Surveyors were employed and the town was soon platted. Shrewd business men desiring a favorable location began to cast their eyes this way, realized the advantage of the location, the rich farming country surrounding it, and the thrifty and energetic people of the town and vicinity.

The first building put up after the town was platted,

was built by Wm. Quick on Bush street and was first occupied by McDonald Bros. & Todd. The next building was Charley Cherry's blacksmith shop, then a Mr. Schimel put up the first store building north of the Quick store and was first occupied by L. W. Rich as post office and "Dad" Packard, as furniture store, and from that on the town has had a good substantial growth.

About this time, the school having outgrown the old school house the proposition to build a new school house and select a new site, as the old site was spoiled by the railroad was presented. This stirred up a strife. Those on the south side of the railroad wanted it located on that side and those on the north side naturally wanted it on their side. The school board after a good deal of "considering" located it on the south side. This of course was not satisfactory to the north side and they put in a vigorous protest and appealed from the decision of the board to the County Superintendent. After hearing both sides he set aside the decision of the directors and after meeting with the electors and carefully considering the matter, although it was compromised by selecting the present site, which cost \$300. Immediately bonds were voted and a nice two story two room school house was built, costing about \$1800. On

account of the rapid growth of the town, the new building began to be so crowded that the board was beginning to devise some way to add on to it, when it caught fire and was destroyed, February 12, 1895.

This necessitated the building of a new school house. After a careful study of all the sanitary arrangements necessary for the health and convenience of the scholars, as to heating and ventilating, light, easy and short runs of stairs, the present fine building was organized, which is the pride of all the district, and second to none as to sanitary arrangements in the county.

There are four rooms that will seat about fifty scholars each, with cloak rooms for each room, besides a library located in the belfry. It is fitted with the Smeade System of ventilating and heating. We have next to the largest school in the county. Its present number of scholars is two hundred.

The principals since the first new school house was built are as follows:—J. F. Gray, Annie Clark, E. C. Bennett, F. B. Blanchard, Cora Cotant and P. C. Arildson. Primary room:—Mattie Palmer, Ada Reid, Maud Doak, Florence Clark, Minnie Inglesbee and Frank Quick. Intermediate room:—Edna Poor, Libbie Sheffield, Sarah Glad-

win, Grammar room:—Miss Hoover, Miss Myrtle Ottis. The present board of directors is, J. D. Thompson, president; C. A. Kenyon, Sec'y; F. W. Sheldon, G. F. Durham, John Elliott and L. W. Rich directors, and Wm. Quick, treas. There is a library of two hundred volumns. Taking everything in consideration our school is second to none in the county.

On account of the town being built within the last ten years its appearance presents a marked contrast to older towns, its buildings being more modern. There are thirty-five residences that are of the latest architectural design and costing from \$1,200 to \$3,000.

The Wheeler opera house is a brick veneered building 44x60 with two store rooms in the first story and a fine opera house in the second story.

There are five church organizations and four church buildings. The Baptist church is located just north of the main business street and is a fine addition to the town.

The M. E. church is located just east of the Baptist church. They have a very attractive little church.

The Free Baptist are erecting a new building on Pine street.

The Catholic church is located in the north-west part of town.

The German Lutherans,

hold their services in the M. E. church.

The town was incorporated in 1894 and on that account we enjoy as nice kept and well regulated a town as you will find. The present city officers are: Fred Field, Mayor; Geo. Bracher, Recorder; J. J. Hesser, John Elliott, Mart Sager, Allen Sliter, and Wm. Sneath, Councilmen; Wm. Andrews, City Marshall, and Frank Cary, Night Watch.

The town has eight street lamps, a fire engine, a fire company and a public library.

The present population is 700.

The spring of 1898 presents an outlook for Lamont that cannot be equaled by any town of its side in the great and glorious state of Iowa. Contractors already have work enough ahead for the year, to show that our little city will not take a back seat, but will gain the steady increase that she has scored every year since the putting through of the Chicago Great Western railroad. The writer can predict nothing but prosperity for the most thriving little city in north eastern Iowa. Here is to her prosperity.

The city officers above are the new officers of 1898.

We are indebted to G. M. Foster, of Lamont, for important dates in the latter history. Also to L. W. Rich, who has given his especial attention to this part of the book.

Business Firms In 1898

Kreussel & Bracher	Lumber	Chas. Cherry	Blacksmith
John Carr	Furniture	Hesner & Root	Butcher
John Thompson		Lamont Creamery Co.	
	Buyer of Live Stock	Tuttle Bros.	General Mdse.
C. Little	Druggist	G. F. Durham	General Mdse.
C. G. Flaucher	Restaurant	Penberthy Bros.	Gen. Mdse.
G. W. Hoffman		C. T. Ross	General Mdse.
	Druggist and Physician	G. S. Reed	Harness Shop
J. M. Franks	Jeweler	Frank Rhines	Jeweler
Lamont Savings Bank		Wheeler & Eaton	Druggists
Deck Cowles	Implements	T. W. Rogers	Hardware
A. W. Richmond	Barber	F. S. Brownell	Barber
O. G. Kenyon	General Mdse.	A. W. Russell	Hotel
I. G. Bills	Justice of the	J. J. Peile	Hardware
	Peace and Prop. of	William Trumblee	Blacksmith
	Racket Store	John Elliott	Dealer in Poultry
W. G. McDonald	Hotel	Dr. A. J. Ward	Physician
Vince Zemanek	Blacksmith	Flaucher & Foster	
J. W. Bonney	Cooper Shop		Livery Stable
Dr. Adams	Dentist	H. Ehrke	Contractors
Dr. Richardson	Physician	Lamont Press	
J. W. Brady	Physician	C. Stetter	Photographer
Lamont Leader		B. Hartwell	Lamont Feed Mill
Sliter & Brown	Millinery	Geo. Scothorn	Contractor
E. Hilton	Cattle Buyer	H. Kamoss	Mason
J. Weber	Cigars, etc.	A. R. Jones	
W. O'Brien	Mason		Veterinary Surgeon
O. S. Fowler, Jr.	Vet. Surgeon	H. Hughes	Painter
J. Hense	Painter	Wm. Horsley	Brickyard
Jas. Carr	Coal & Grain	Frank Foffel	
Thos. Foffel	Barber		Lamont Broom Works
Harry Cowles	Stock Buyer	H. Snyder	Lumber
Madden & McCormack		Mrs. W. S. Hewitt	Millinery
	Millinery	W. S. Hewitt	Cobbler
Art Ludley	Harness Shop	Field & Rich	Real Estate
G. H. Jakway	Stationery		

Later History of Lamont

Taken from the Files of The Lamont Leader

1896

The Lamont Creamery Assn. enlarged their coal shed 10 ft. to the north making room for two carloads of coal.

Two new wells, one 14 ft. and one 11 ft. deep were put down for the fire engine to be attached, every business place will be in reach of water.

In this same year, the Leader and Reporter Consolidated and retained the name "Lamont Leader," and sold to L. D. Lammon, then to A. E. Brown. In 1923, R. A. Tennis became the owner and editor and was succeeded by E. A. Tennis, the present owner.

The town could boast of having two drugstores, three doctors, one veterinarian, a jeweler, meat market, two hardware stores, lumber yard, furniture store and several grocery and dry goods stores.

Such names appear in the advertising columns as J. J. Hsner, Carr, Thompson and Carr, C. T. Ross, Geo. Durham, Kreussel and Bracker, Dr's. Richardson, Hoffman and Ward, Mr. Wing, auctioneer, A. G. Tyrrell, drayman.

1897

In June a lot was purchased east of the Baptist parsonage preparatory to building a Free

Will Baptist church.

1898

In June Minnie Liddie and Arthur Dudley were united in marriage.

Lamont had a second newspaper called the "Lamont Press," edited by Harry Potter and Alfred Brown.

To celebrate the surrender of Sandigode, Cuba and other American victories, a movement was on to purchase a new flag.

Will Ludley and Samuel Griffith opened a racket store in Lamont.

G. L. Rosier and G. E. Genung purchased the dental practice of Dr. Adams.

In August, Jas. Carr shipped four cars of oats, besides an average of one car a day for a week. 2 cars of cattle, 2 cars of hogs, and 4 or 5 cars of baled hay. Lamont received two cars lumber and one car general merchandise.

1900

In October, the Opperman Bros. sold their meat market to a company composed of John Hesner, J. D. Thompson and John Elliott.

Gasoline lamps were placed in several business places. The



BUSINESS DISTRICT OF LAMONT IN 1933 (LOOKING SOUTH)



BUSINESS DISTRICT OF LAMONT IN 1933 (LOOKING NORTH)

latest were C. T. Ross, Tuttle Bros. and Finley Sisters.

John Flaucher's livery business was sold to T. W. Jenney and Rush Spicer of Stanley. Mr. Flaucher embarked on the business of buying and selling horses.

Sharp and Windenberg sold the City Meat Market to the firm of Hesner, Elliott and Thompson in November, leaving Lamont with only one market.

Work was begun on the new bridge on south Washington street.

1901

In January of 1901, the Commercial House, operated by James Spicher, who died of typhoid, changed hands with Will Goldsmith now in charge.

Blacksmith shops operated by E. C. Eckert and Art Ludley were purchased by G. S. Reed and E. S. Tickner to be consolidated into one shop.

In February Mrs. Hicks and Mrs. Etta Jones opened a cafe in Lamont, known as the Star Restaurant.

Albert Allison began work in March as tinner for T. W. Rogers, replacing George Foster, who went to Washington.

The Great Western installed a 6 horsepower gasoline engine at the tank house, which supplied water for the tank.

Bert Hartwell erected a new mill in March, replacing the one destroyed by fire. The

engine and machinery which went through the fire were repaired and used.

D. M. Whitney opened a harness shop in the old Ludley stand, with Chas. Eckart as manager and harness maker.

Postmaster Kenyon and Mr. Zeller, an agent in mapping out rural routes, were working on a route out of Lamont.

In April a new pasteurizing machine was put in place at the Lamont Creamery.

1903

Work is under way for building the new brick block, Herman Ehrke having the contract.

The Truman Swain Co. sold their remaining stock to Tumbler and Redmond.

George Bracker sold his interest in the Lumber yard to George Kreussel.

1904

Mrs. M. C. Howell sold her millinery store to Mrs. J. D. Thompson in January.

In March, Mrs. Herman Scharff opened a millinery store.

A lighting plant was installed in the M. E. Church by John Hense.

Dr. Brady sold his practice to G. N. Thompson.

In April the old Central House was repaired and fitted up for a hotel.

The bank building was moved to a new location in May.

1905 - 1906

In November, 1905, L. P. Manville opened a new dry goods store in Lamont, with a complete stock of new merchandise.

Wheaton and Eaton disposed of the City Drug Store to Denton and Ward.

The Lamont Leader office was moved from the Bush bldg. on the east side of main street, to rooms upstairs in the Field block.

After disposing of the meat market over a year ago to Meyer and Abmeier, J. D. Thompson buys it back and again enters business.

After 10 years in the implement business, H. D. Cowell disposed of the business to Henry Scharff, the exchange of real estate also considered in the deal.

R. A. Denton sold his interest in the Drug Store to W. A. Abbott.

The millinery openings on Friday and Saturday, April 1906, at the millinery parlors of Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Gray to provide the ladies with the proper styles in head gear as decreed by "dame fashion," was the best ever held in the city in the wealth of artistic millinery which is always a joy to the feminine heart. The decorations were carnations fresh from the green house which added much to the beauty of the creations. A new departure in advertising by Mrs. Thompson

was a folder printed on cloth finished paper announcing the opening. The Easter hat this year promises to fulfill every expectation.

William Trower blossomed out yesterday with a new ice wagon that is a neat and handy rig for the frozen solid. It has a covering and the word ice appears on the side in letters large enough that it will not be taken for a moving van.

In August, the first Masonic lodge ever assembled in Lamont received a charter and was duly instituted with a full corp of officers.

1907

Work on the city well by Wm. Sharff was completed when they had reached 134 ft.

The steel tower and tank for the city waterworks arrived. The concrete piers for the water works tower was completed.

In September Wm. Trower disposed of his dray business to James Dozark but retained the ice business and had charge of the hearse and did general teaming.

1908

The Lamont Fire Department was organized with a code of laws governing its deliberations and actions in January.

In February Teeple and Harkins leased the Trumblee blacksmith shop, and prepared to do all kinds of blacksmith-

ing.

The Golden Anniversary of the organization of the Baptist church was celebrated in March and in April a new organ was purchased and placed in the church.

Mose Nedreau bought the 20th century harness shop from G. S. Reid.

Jay Bradley opened a bowling alley south of G. F. Durham's store.

City council ordered three street lights to replace the old gasoline lamps. The new ones are also gasoline of the latest pattern, mounted on iron posts 12 ft. high.

Elmer Hesner began work in June as cashier at the Lamont Savings Bank.

1909

The month of January found Mr. and Mrs. Glen Firman becoming the new telephone operators, replacing Mrs. Voorhees.

The firm of Hense and Opperman dissolved. Opperman consuming the machinery business.

In April the Leader Office was moved to new quarters.

Wm. Penfield sold his restaurant to Alfred Anderson.

In August fire escapes were being installed at the National hotel. They were made of iron links and fastened to the window sills.

Vince Zemanek sold his blacksmith shop to M. J. Ryan in September.

The town council purchased

the Waite pasture, located in the center of the town and will be converted into a park.

In November a new photograph gallery located in Lamont, A. W. Greenley proprietor.

Dedication service was held for the new House of Worship of St. Mary's church.

1910

New cashiers in Lamont in 1910 were: C. E. Hayes at the Lamont Savings Bank, M. J. Nolan at Farmers Savings Bank.

Dr. R. V. Graves left Lamont for Storm Lake.

Tuttle Bros. disposed of their store to George Chamberlain.

In March the Farmers Savings Bank opened its doors and received their charter. A burglar proof safe was installed.

Albert Allison severed connections with the Rogers Hardware store after 5 years of service and went to Independence in the employ of Sherman-Smith Engine Co.

The Chicago Great Western installed a new pump at the pump house in April.

In May, J. F. Davidson, editor of Leader for ten years took on a partner in the person of his son, Arthur Davidson.

In June Bracker Lbr. Co. purchased John Elliott's stock and interests in the business for a sum of 70,000, said to be the largest sum of money

ever paid to one single party in Lamont.

The implement business operated by Henry Scharff was transferred to J. P. Nelson. Scharff taking an 80 acre farm in exchange for the business.

The work on the Farmers Savings Bank building was nearing completion.

J. M. Franks bldg. on east side of main street was improved with a new plate glass front in September.

In November, F. W. Stephenson, buttermaker at Lamont for 5 years, resigned to take a salesman job.

1911

George Kreussel, lumberman, associated with him his son, Sigmund, and the firm to be known as George Kreussel and Co.

Lee Trower received the appointment for rural mail carrier.

L. P. Clubine buys interest in Bert Sharff pump and windmill business.

A new lighting was installed in the Methodist church.

The old bell tower was moved from the lot adjoining the Farmer's Savings Bank onto the same lot as the water works tower.

M. J. Nolan resigned as cashier of Farmer's Savings Bank to accept a position in Mason City.

In April the contract for the building of the new addition to the school building

was awarded to A. J. Bruce, Manchester.

Wm. Pratt opened a Panatorium in rooms in the Field Block, assisted by Cliff Jakway.

Lamont's first strike began when the section men who were getting \$1.50 a day struck for higher wages.

J. D. Thompson bought the G. D. Chamberlain stock of business.

In November John Elliott and J. F. Redmond were agents for Model T Ford and received a 1912 model for a demonstrator.

1912

Charles Dopp bought the milk route that has been conducted by Eugene Sager in January.

W. J. Ludley operated a Racket Store on West Pine Street, carrying a line of groceries and homemade ham-mocks.

In October the Lamont Drayline was sold by James Dozark and Frank Kotek to H. E. Andrews, nephew of Frank Rhines.

The county bridge gang built a new modern bridge on Jackson Street.

The German Lutherans erected a school house on the church grounds for instruction of church principals.

Dr. J. W. Donnell located in Lamont.

In December, after 18 years in grain and coal business James Carr sold out to Mr.

Clemens, taking the Clemens 80 acre farm in exchange.

A controversy arose over the land on which the Camp-ton church stood as to whether it belonged to the former owner, Harlan Sliter, or to the deed that gave it to the Oak Hill Cemetery.

The 35th Annual Reunion of Buchanan Co. Veteran's Assn., was held in Lamont in September. At this same time mains for the waterworks were strung along the line of the new extension and the digging of ditches began.

Frank Foffel held a broom sale in March, prices at 25c, 30c, 35c or 3 for \$1.00.

In February the work was completed on the new school building and the rooms are now occupied in the new building.

Dr. G. W. Hoffman built a two story brick building, with residence in top story and his store on first floor.

Dr. Hoffman's Drug Store was discovered in flames in April and fire boys made a brave attempt to save the town waterworks proved effective. The fire is believed to have started from the chimney being overheated.

The park which had been used as a dump was leveled and cleaned up.

A City Ordinance was made at this time prohibiting any person from throwing any trash or garbage in the streets or alleys of Lamont.

J. M. Franks sold his Jew-elry store to Frank Rhines in May. The firm was then F. W. Rhines & Son.

1913

Thomas Foffel disposed of his barber shop and building to Lee Trower, who had re-signed as rural mail carrier. F. N. Bates received the ap-pointment of rural mail car-rier.

In March Lamont was di-vided into four fire districts making it easier for the fire-men to locate fires.

William Ludley closed his stock of groceries and school supplies and moved to Man-chester in April.

In August Joy Bradley sold the Gem Theater to Loren Arbegust and Ross Pratt. Dr. R. H. Payne opened an office in the Field Block to practice medicine.

The large barn on the Falck farm just north of Lamont was completely destroyed by fire along with 4 horses, 3 brood sows, 30 tons of hay, 15 bales straw, 80 bu. oats, harness and other farm tools. There was no insurance on the barn.

This was one of several fires under similar circum-stances- first was R. E. Drap-er's barn, C. T. Ross' corn-crib, Linderwell Bros. thresh-ing machine separator, and the Falck barn, all taking fire in the September night at about the same hour.

Loury Kyle sold his livery

barn to F. E. Tarbox and son, Percy.

In November E. W. Clements disposed of the feed and coal business, sheds and machinery to W. C. Falck.

1914

A. J. Emmert moved his shop from the Hotel to the corner room in the Field block in January.

The Kyle was sold to Joe Emmert and Dave Curtis to take possession in February.

The First Baptist Church and the Free Will Baptist church agreed to have their meetings together.

Three new buildings were to be erected, a flour and feed mill, machinery and feed warehouse and a brick building north of the post office.

In May A. L. Benson opened a new garage in Lamont in the Elliott and Redmond building.

Ivan Hesner and Ray Toole purchased the Gem Theatre from Loren Arbegust.

Thos. Kelsh became postmaster. C. A. Kenyon retired after 14 years and 6 months of service. During this time Mrs. Kenyon had been deputy and her job was turned over to Miss Carr.

The old photograph building on the corner north of telephone central was ordered to be removed.

In June the postoffice building which was owned by the L. L. Hoyt estate, was sold to

Thomas Kelsh.

The M. E. Church began considering a new church parsonage.

Work began on the brick work for W. C. Falck's machinery warehouse and office.

F. W. Rhines purchased the store building occupied by T. W. Rogers.

Dr. Parker disposed of half interest in his practice to Dr. E. H. Trezona of Elgin in July.

The building that George Guy sold some time ago to F. W. Rhines was again sold to W. A. Abbott.

Thomas Foffel opened his Variety Store in September.

James Carr rebought the coal business he sold to E. W. Clements the spring of 1912.

James and J. F. Carr purchased the implement building owned by W. C. Falck. The property was sold for \$5,000.

Joy Bradley repurchased the Gem theater of Elmer Hesner who had purchased Ray Toole's share in the popular "movie."

The Baptist people occupied the new church building presented to them by the Free Will Baptist congregation, for the first time.

W. C. Falck sold his implement business and all the buildings he had previously built for \$23,250.00 to E. E. Orr of Wadena, Minnesota.



ORIGINAL GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

A Methodist class was organized in 1856, which held regular services with occasional preaching and then in 1857 Rev. Alger of Strawberry Point organized a Methodist Church.

Meetings were held in various places until 1880, at which time a church was built on the location that the Methodist Church now stands.



GRACE METHODIST CHURCH

The original church building was built over in 1899, to the present day structure and dedicated June 24, 1900. In 1918 the basement was fixed and the structure was raised five feet.

Extensive repairs were begun in 1944 and it was rededicated on October 28, 1945. In 1949 and 1950 the basement was redecorated and the new cupboards built in the kitchen and the rest rooms were completed.

The present pastor is Rev. Mervin Nelson.

1915

A. J. and H. H. Davidson leased the business and plant of the Lamont Leader in Jan.

In March J. D. Thompson traded his merchandise stock and residence toward 320 acre farm with Mr. Friedman who had recently moved to Lamont from Dyersville.

Flinn and Howard opened a new millinery store in the Redmond Dept. Store.

Thos. Foffel sold his brick store bldg. to Joe Newton. The price of the bldg. was \$2300.

A deal was completed by which Victor Jones became the proprietor of the Curtis Cafe. Mr. and Mrs. Curtis again went on the stage, and intended to do vaudeville work with their crack shot act as a feature.

In April Dr. L. L. Stier, a veterinary surgeon and a graduate of the Chicago Veterinary College, was in Lamont and rented the corner room of the Field Block for an office.

Thos. Donahoe sold his dray line to S. W. Rich and Son of Edgewood.

The Baptist congregation of this city has completed arrangements for an addition to their church on Pine street which will make one of the best church auditoriums in the city when completed. The plans for the addition are being drawn by Contractor Bruce of Manchester, who

was here Monday to meet the committee.

The plan is to build an addition on the west side of the church for a pulpit which will cover the three windows now used. A baptistry will be built in the pulpit with possibly a small room. They plan to put in new pews which will face the west and thoroughly remodel the interior along modern lines. It is the plan to begin work on the foundation at once.

The Lamont Commercial Club held their first meeting in 1915 in the K. P. Hall and the ladies were invited. The pres. was W. A. Abbott. Between 75 and 100 were present.

In June Lamont was to lose one of its mail routes, route no. 2, which had been carried for the past 14 years by John Gray. The route was to be partly absorbed by route number 1 and partly by routes out of Dundee and Masonville.

In August The Great Western installed an electric bell at the crossing at the lumber yard, which gave warning of the approach of a train. The bell begins its warning ring as a train passes either of the home signals. It has long been needed and was secured through the efforts of the Commercial Club.

Fred Retz and Alonzo Jenks started operations the first of the week on the foundation

of a new garage. The building is to take the place of the old Central House building which Mr. Jenks purchased some time ago and which is now being used as a garage. The new structure will be built of cement blocks and will be fire proof. It will be 44 x 90 feet and will be, when completed, one of the finest and best equipped garages in this part of the state.

In November it was decided to erect a soldiers monument south of the creek, west of the bridge, with a cement foundation 55 x 30 ft. and extend 10 feet into the street.

In October Roy Bush purchased the harness shop from R. A. Pratt.

In December the new Lumber yard of Lamont Lumber Co. was getting ready for an opening with L. E. Whitney from Park Ridge, Ill. as manager.

1916

In February, a special election resulted in a vote of 124 to 2 in favor of granting franchise to Miller & Sons of Clermont for street lighting.

Falck and Sharff disposed of their implement business to Wm. Powers.

New seats were purchased and placed in the Baptist church and a full basement put under the main part of the church.

Rural Route 2 was re-estab-

lished and John Gray was appointed carrier.

May found Electric light-work started, work on the transformer and digging holes and setting posts.

Lee Trower and Joe Emmert were barbers.

L. E. Whitney, mgr. of Lamont Lbr. Co., was succeeded by C. E. Turner.

Retz and Son operated an auto livery, day or night calls.

In July, Dr. Greenwalt, dentist, sold his practice to R. J. Johnson.

A new bridge was built at the north end of main street. Electric light linemen strung the wire for the city lines.

In September, an airship visited Lamont, causing excitement and curiosity. School was dismissed allowing them to view the machine which weighed 1200 pounds and equipped with a 35 horsepower engine.

The light was turned on in Lamont, the darkness of ages having passed on.

A new doctor, Dr. E. W. Warner, located in Lamont.

In October, H. C. Ehrke, assisted by W. McIntosh of Manchester, moved the Soldier's Monument to its new location in City Park.

1917

In June of 1917, much work was done on the city park, on the roads, and culverts put in.

The initial work was done

on the road to the "Devil's Backbone" so they were able to drive to the park over a good road.

The new Ford Garage building was completed and Houska Bros. moved in their equipment.

In April, Dr. R. J. Slater, veterinarian, opened an office in the Field Block.

James Carr sold his Grain, Coal and Feed business to the Farmer's commission co., in July.

On Sunday, October 23, the Methodist Church was reopened after the improvements were made.

In September, James Carr began the manufacture of cement tile, brick blocks and other cement products, in Mr. Carr's old office building and feed mill.

J. D. Thompson purchased the interest of J. F. Redmond in the garage and the automobile business of the firm of Elliott and Redmond in November.

The Houska Bros. (Jake and Peter) moved their blacksmith outfit from Dundee into temporary quarters in the Trumblee shop until the Elliott and Redmond garage was completed in March.

T. W. Trower purchased the dray business of S. W. Rich and combined it with his own dray making him the only drayman of Lamont.

1918

In March L. L. Jenks became proprietor of Lamont Auto and Supply Co., purchasing the interest of Earl Retz who entered the service.

In August the Creamery installed motors and machinery is now mostly run by electricity.

In November, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Curtis took charge of the Gundloch restaurant, Mr. Gundloch was called for military duty.

Lamont celebrated the signing of the armistice by building a large fire south of the hotel and shooting off fireworks.

Agent Snodgrass gave the information that 49 cars, thirty two carloads outgoing and seventeen incoming which is quite good for the amount of territory tributary to Lamont.

Dr. R. J. Johnson disposed of his dental practice to Dr. W. D. Wilson.

1919

A State Park was assured and established at the Devil's Backbone. A tract of 1200 acres was purchased.

After four years in the mercantile business, W. D. Shoull discontinued business and held a closing out sale.

A city ordinance called for the removal of hitching posts on main street and made it a fine to have a post or to hitch a team on the business streets of Lamont. A hitch-

yard was provided for on the C. T. Ross lot west of main street and there was one on the east side.

A German Cannon had been donated by the Sec'y. of the War Dep't. to the city of Lamont to be placed in the City Park.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Firman, telephone operators for eleven years, resigned to take a similar position at Hopkinton. Misses Helen and Martha Lewis were the new operators.

St. Mary's Catholic Church was entirely remodeled in October.

S. G. Kreussel purchased the Lamont Furniture and Undertaking business from J. F. Carr and took possession August 1.

1920

O. E. Fuller opened a Livery and Feed Barn at the old Fred Retz barn in January.

An election was held on the question of the consolidation of the school. The vote was 91 for and 15 against.

In March Don Risk and Harry Hawkins purchased the picture show business from Dave Curtis.

A. J. Emmert and daughters, Belle, Leoma and Wilma left for Perry, Iowa, to spend a few weeks in preparing for the opening of the Jones Chautauqua system.

In May Iowa's First State Park was dedicated. Lamont was named the official gate-

way to Backbone State Park. Approximately 5000 people attended. Governor Harding was present.

Joy Bradley bought the City Cafe from his son, Carl.

After 20 years of editing the Lamont Leader, A. J. Davidson sold out to A. E. Brown, a former resident of Lamont and one-time publisher of the old Lamont Reporter.

In August Joy Bradley disposed of the restaurant to Mr. and Mrs. F. Ferguson.

The Consumers Mercantile Corporation of Cedar Rapids opened a new up-to-date grocery in Lamont.

1921

In February, O. C. Gladwin, cashier of Farmer's Savings Bank resigned, E. C. Hesner was elected in his place.

E. C. Hesner then resigned in April and C. R. Rhodes became cashier.

Strand Theatre opened with Howard Retz as proprietor. It will seat about 200 persons.

Russell Sherren of Winthrop moved to Lamont in May to be agent of the Standard Oil Co.

J. J. King of Manchester, will open up a new harness and shoe repair shop in the C. T. Ross building. Mr. King having worked in larger cities.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Ferguson disposed of the restaurant business to J. J. Odermatt of Belvue.

Fred Retz purchased the building formerly occupied by the Leader and then remodelled it for a new picture house, Howard Retz as manager.

In September the Lamont Farmer's Savings Bank closed its doors by order of the Board of Directors and was placed in the hands of the State Bank Examiner.

Farmer's State Bank opened for business on November 1.

Arthur Pitman was appointed postmaster under the new administration.

1922

H. R. Tuttle purchased an interest in the pool hall of Newton and severed his connection with the G. F. Durham store.

Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Green purchased the Lamont drug store from W. A. Abbott.

W. A. Abbott and son opened an office in the basement of the Lamont Savings Bank for the manufacture and sale of Mr. Abbott's rheumatism and neuritis remedy.

In August J. J. Hesner disposed of his interest in the meat market and grocery to W. T. Duncan of Edgewood. The firm was then known as Duncan and Donath.

In September a new filling station was erected on main street just west of the bridge.

In October J. D. Thompson and son disposed of their Ford Garage and Machine Shop to Sherman Porter of Cedar

Rapids.

1923

In March Mike Haddy of Dubuque opened a general store in Lamont.

Thos. Kelsh acquired the Opera House and Field Block.

Fridley Motor Co. bought the Ford Garage of Sherman Porter.

In June work was begun on the road at the west entrance to the Backbone State Park.

Lamont was boasting of a real city, gasoline and oil filling station, with Chas. Flaucher and son as operators, located east of the Ford Garage.

James Carr and W. D. Schaul formed a partnership for real estate business in July.

In September R. A. Tennis became editor and publisher of the Lamont Leader, which he purchased from A. E. Brown.

Smith Bros. (Elmer and Clifford) took over the Hardware Store from T. W. Rogers who established the business in 1890 and had conducted it continuously since. Albert Allison was retired as mechanic.

The dedication of our new school building took place November 9th.

1925

Mike Haddy suffered a heavy loss when his store building was badly damaged by fire and the stock damaged by fire and water in Feb.

In March Mike Haddy purchased the building known as the Field Block, occupied by R. V. Green drug store, the John Goldsmith store and the Opera House.

In April the John Goldsmith stock of merchandise and fixtures were sold at auction.

In June E. A. Cole resigned as butter maker at the creamery and Nels Hanson took his place.

Postmaster Art Pitman took it upon himself to make a trip to Oelwein each afternoon taking mail up and bringing back what he could, a task greatly appreciated by the community.

Floods hit this section flooding the creek here. The mill at Forestville was washed away.

The town got a new electric fire whistle which was blown at 7 a.m., noon and at 6 p.m. as well as for fires.

In September Alma Spangenberg opened a beauty parlor in Joe Emmert's Barber Shop.

J. S. Murray sold the New Home Cafe to Mr. and Mrs. Sam Moat of Stanley.

In December on Christmas morning two passenger trains wrecked. No passengers were hurt but the engineer was injured.

The main street bridge that was damaged by flood was opened for traffic.

1926

After twenty years in the dray business, Will Trower sold out to Roy Dopp in July.

R. V. Green, druggist, moved into his new location with an up-to-date drug store.

In August the Farmer's Savings Bank was dissolved by unanimous vote of the stockholders, J. H. Brown, president.

The Farmer's Supply Co. issued notice of incorporation, with authorized capital stock \$18,000. Signed Henry Allenstein, H. Dunsmoor, F. F. Allenstein, Jos. Ehler, John P. Ehler.

1927

In January Harry Stewart took over the dray business from Roy Dopp, who had but recently taken it over from Trower.

Roy Linstrum of Westgate had taken over the Fridley Motor Garage business in February.

In April D. W. Rhines announced his entry in the business of Funeral Directing in Lamont and vicinity.

A new modern soda fountain was installed in R. V. Green's drug store.

In May Ralph Schmidt took charge of the Lamont Creamery as butter maker.

Harry Stewart operated the dray business in August.

A. C. Burnell resigned as cashier of the Farmer's State Bank, E. W. Arbegust appointed in his place.

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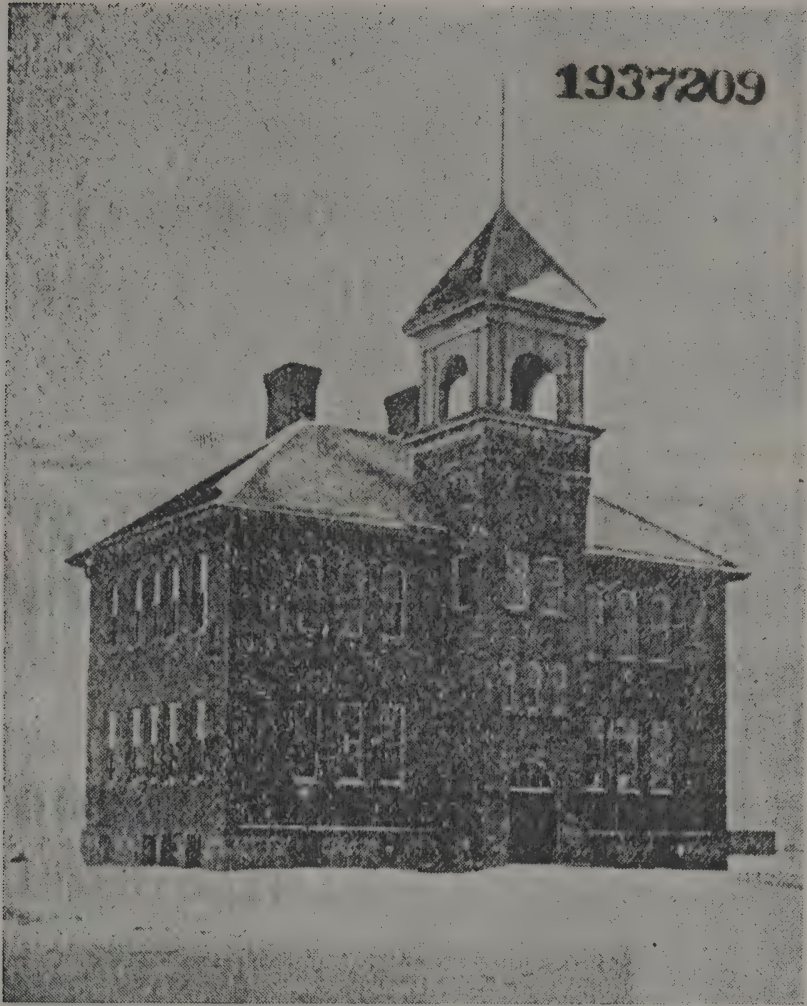
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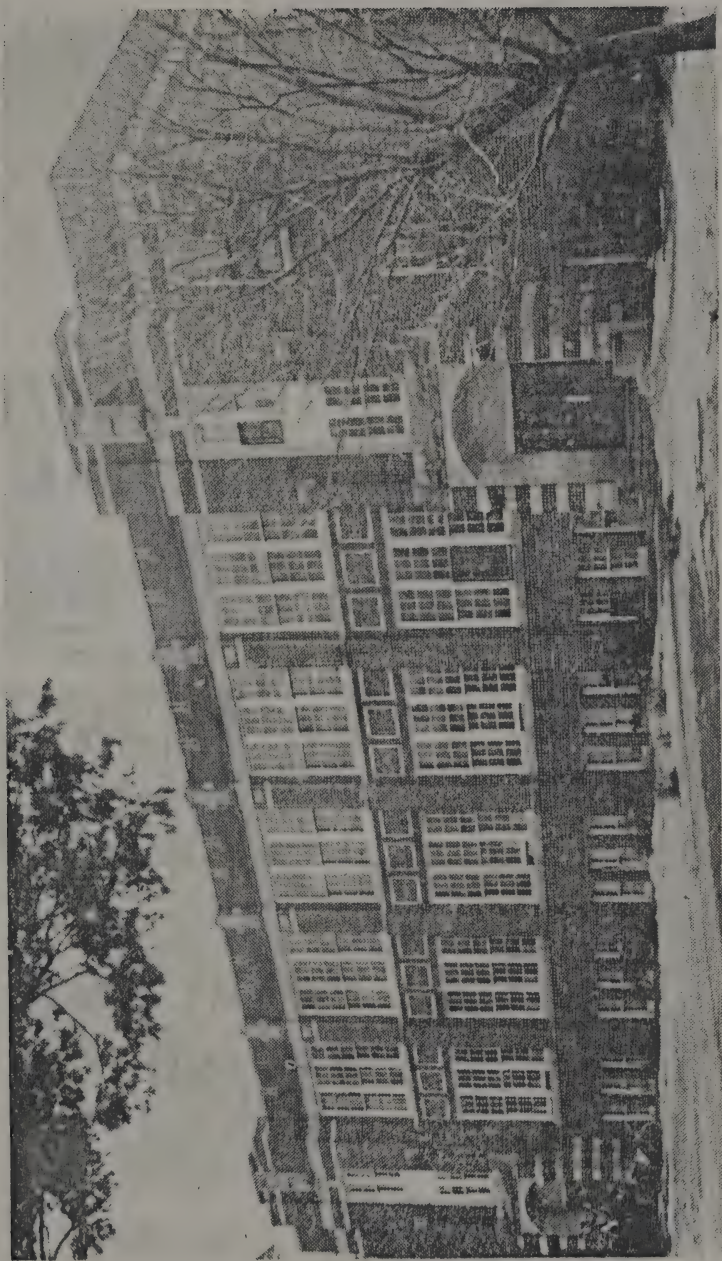
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LAMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING IN 1898

Because the old schoolhouse burned down in 1895, it was necessary to erect a new building, which they immediately did.

An addition has been built on the structure and much has been done on improving and utilizing space in the interior. The basement has been remodeled into modern and very up-to-date classrooms and the upstairs has been partitioned so as to make room for the many classes necessitated by the ever increasing number of students.



LAMONT CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL BUILDING

This structure was erected in 1922, the architects being Keffer and Jones and the builder being John G. Miller.

The first board of education in this building was I. E. Lang, President; V. M. Reel; William E. Ross; Charles H. Jenks; W. C. Falck; D. W. Rhines, Secretary; and J. U.

1928

J. J. King sold the harness and shoe business to George Bender.

Improvements were going forward in May on the new city park. A cement retaining wall built around the monument with steps leading to the platform.

In September Harlow Chapman became the new assistant cashier at the Farmer's State Bank.

Mr. McBride took over the Chevrolet agency for this territory from Mr. Fred Retz in December.

1929

R. S. DuBois of West Union became local manager for Central States Power and Light Corp., replacing I. Genrich in January.

In April an ordinance prohibiting stock from running at large was ordained by the council, punishment imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$100.

J. J. Odermatt sold his restaurant in November to Mrs. Gauge and her father, Mrs. Wilbur of Fayette.

Work is underway in beautifying the Lamont Cons. School grounds. Various kinds of trees and shrubs are being planted. Along the south there will be a row of Norway Spruce which will screen the view of C. G. W. railroad and coal sheds.

1929

A chemical fire engine, purchased by the town and farmers in the community arrived from Indiana.

Fred Griesinger of Dubuque will have charge of the local electric light plant replacing Russell DuBois.

1930

John Elliott, president of the board of directors of Lamont Savings Bank was granted his request to be relieved of active participation in the clerical work of the bank after twenty years of continuous service.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Darrow of Strawberry Point opened a restaurant in the A. G. Williams building.

In February a resolution by the Town of Lamont was made that the sum of \$50 be charged for the service of the Lamont Fire truck whenever the truck be called to any non-subscriber farm fire.

A. O. Cowles was appointed as manager of the Hatch Produce Co. in March.

T. L. Hamlett and Mark Elliott were elected school directors. Other directors were: Chas. Dopp, Chas. Jenks and I. E. Lang, J. U. Downer was treasurer.

Temperatures dropped to ten below after being around 60 degrees in February.

In April Clair Darrow sold his restaurant to Mr. Kinney of Manchester.

Town election: Mayor, Tom Rogers; treas. H. J. Toole; assessor, Harry Stewart; councilmen - John Dittmer, Earl Retz, Bert Snodgrass, Chas. Schultz, E. M. Whitney. Park Com. for six years, Mrs. Kelsh; for four years, Bess Durham. Mrs. Kelsh and Bess Durham had the honor of being the first women to hold office in Lamont.

John Gray, who served Rural Route no. 2 for 26 years resigned in June. The route was consolidated with Route 1, Fred Bates, carrier

Three new business firms were opened in September:

J.J. Odermatt	Meat Market
	and grocery
H. A. Baldwin	City Bakery
John Kuper	Radio License

In November 9 miles of highway to Lamont was approved by highway commission, thus connecting no. 10 and no. 20.

1931

In January the Lamont Savings Bank was closed by the directors.

In February Edgar Tennis purchased the dray business from Howard Dozark and Marion Faber, selling the team of horses and doing the draying entirely with a truck.

A severe blizzard blockaded all highways, in March, leaving traffic at a standstill.

John Hense and Bert Cook purchased the C. T. Ross stock of merchandise.

The Lamont Methodist Church observed its 75th anniversary in July.

In November Merle Yoergler opened a barber shop in the John Hense building.

The Farmer's State Bank was closed in December by order of the board of directors.

1933

In June C. I. Wilson came into possession of the Hardware Store formerly operated by the Smith Bros.

George Thompson sold his meat and grocery store to Mr. Verbugt of Dubuque in July.

Sixteen refrigerator cars of the C. G. W. Railway filled with dressed meat and lard were piled up in the ditch and on the crossways of the track east of the depot. The estimated loss was \$25,000.

In cooperation with the N. R. A. movement, the business places of Lamont opened at 7 in the morning and closed at 6 in the evening except Wed. and Sat.

Harry Baldwin moved his bakery to Strawberry Point in September to open a bakery there.

Another accident in November derailed ten cars. A large amount of fish oil and a load of timbers scattered when an arch bar on a box car broke. Estimated loss was \$3500.

June 1932

Devenney and Bradley sales Co. of Ft. Dodge, purchased the \$4,000 stock of merchandise formerly the George Durham stock, and opened a sale.

1934

John Dittmer moved his office and produce business into the Durham Bldg. in Feb.

The school election held in March elected Albert Smith and J. U. Downer directors and Newman Sheldon treas.

Lowell Carr became postmaster and his assistant was E. C. Hesner.

1935

The Lamont postoffice was moved to the building formerly occupied by the Farmer's State Bank in June.

In July Dittmer and Cowles moved from the Durham building to the George Haskins building.

1936

A. A. Sherrer and Marion Falck opened an implement business in March in the Ketz barn east of main street and carried a complete line of J. I. Case machinery.

The Lamont Merchants New Moonlight Theatre opened and was a big success. They were unable to handle the big crowd.

The Purity Cut Rate Co. of Cedar Rapids purchased the Farmer's Mercantile Co. store formerly owned and

operated by F. D. Macheak in July. The store was to be managed by Lloyd F. Doua.

1937

Frank Macheak purchased what was known as the corner garage building on the north end of main street. It was understood that he would move his implement stock to the new location.

In February G. I. Reed, buttermaker, left for Hazleton and Max Thompson became buttermaker.

Mrs. Max Horn opened a restaurant in the Durham building in October.

In November a branch bank was opened in Lamont by the Farmer's State Savings Bank of Independence. E. C. Hesner was in charge.

1938

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Grimm of Dike took possession in February of the Home Cafe, formerly operated by Mrs. Max Horn.

In April one of Lamont's landmarks was torn down. Martin Smith bought the lot and building just north of S. G. Kreussel's Store, removed the building and used the lot as a display ground for his machinery.

John Hense remodeled the A. G. Williams restaurant building in September into a strictly up-to-date theatre.

Elmer Smith completed a new grease house at the D-X

Station, an all modern steel insulated building.

1939

Clifford Smith erected a fire proof block building for his plumbing and heating business.

In September Rev. C. C. Winters returned as pastor of the Aurora and Lamont Methodist Churches for another year.

Dr. L. A. Ford, of Kewanee, Illinois, came to Lamont and located above the post office.

In November a fire in the Macheak Implement caused considerable damage to the interior of the building.

Martin Smith moved into the building occupied by Hatch Produce. The Hatch Produce was moved into the rooms previously occupied by Dr. R. C. Stewart, who temporarily moved to rooms with J. H. Hense until his office at his home was completed.

1941

In February Bernice Odermatt sold her tavern to Thos. Hogan of Jesup.

1942

In July of 1942, many changes were made in business places. A few of them being:

Hatch Co. (Carl Allenstein) moved his produce into the old Carr location.

Marvin Grimm remodeled the building vacated by Hatch Co. and John Hense, into a

restaurant and apartment and moved to the new location.

John Hense established a new office in the building between Helms' store and the theatre.

Lamont Leader moved the printing business to their own building recently occupied by Marvin Grimm (Home Cafe.)

Mose Holub bought the building vacated by the Lamont Leader and remodeled it for the Lamont Cafe, living quarters above.

In September Theo. Nelson held a closing out sale of shoes, rubber footwear, etc., going out of business. Nine years in the business of cobbler and footwear. He had difficulty in getting material.

1944

In March Victor White of Independence became cashier of Farmer's S. S. Bank.

The girl's basketball team won the district tournament, went to State Tournament and lost their first game.

Fire destroyed the barn and car of the Karl Flauchers in July.

Joe Cass, operator of the local theatre, moved in August to Texas to work in a store with his father.

Rev. B. H. Thorlaksen resigned as pastor of the Baptist Church and took a position as pastor of the Dunkerton Baptist Church.

1945

In May Bill Jones of Fayette came to Lamont and started an International Implement business in the L. L. Jenks building. The firm being called the Jones Implement Store.

In October A. A. Chambers purchased the Lamont Shoe and Harness Shop from E. A. Tennis.

Earl Strait of Garrison became manager of the Lamont Office, Farmer's State Savings Bank.

1946

The streets of Lamont were blacktopped in September for the first time.

In June Mrs. Frank Svoboda sold the National Hotel to L. E. Jones after 45 years of operation.

Bernice Thompson sold her restaurant "Home Cafe" to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Maulsen.

The last installment on the bonded indebtedness on the Lamont Consolidated School was paid and the school district was debt free.

In September Arthur Miller of Oneida opened a Sinclair filling station at the north end of main street.

Nola's Beauty Salon, manager Mrs. Nola Burrows, was opened to the public.

The Burrows Radio Service opened for business in Lamont in October.

1947

H. J. Toole, after being in

the mercantile business in Lamont since 1908, sold his business to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lorenz of Guttentberg.

E. M. Barz, formerly branch manager of the Dunkerton bank, was appointed as manager of the Farmer's State Savings Bank, succeeding Mr. E. E. Strait.

In December a new siren was purchased and installed, sponsored by the councilmen and firemen.

1948

In January, a new Coffee Shop was being finished by Steve and Helen Tobey.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Homewood of Edgewood bought the Home Cafe from Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Maulsen.

The Lamont Theatre reopened in March after being closed for remodeling.

Lamont's new fire truck arrived in April.

A. O. Cowles' egg sorting building burned to the ground.

Remodeling of Leader Office and Verbugt's Store was completed.

In September a shoe repair shop was established by Floyd Kitsch and was operated in connection with his rug weaving.

1949

A new shoe repair shop was opened in November by Arlie Banzer of Cedar Rapids and Floyd Neely of Oelwein.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Meehan of Riceville, purchased the

Coffee Shop from Steve and Helen Tobey.

A 25 year franchise for electric service to Lamont was granted to Interstate Power. in June.

A sharp contrast was seen between the old and the new street lights on Lamont's Main Street. With the bright new lighting system, Lamont took another step forward as one of the most progressive towns in northeast Iowa.

In April Donna's Beauty Shop moved from the Don Fry building on main street to her home in the south part of town.

Nola Burrows closed her Beauty Shop and Clifford Burrows closed his Radio Shop, they moved to Cedar Rapids where they had employment.

1950

In January Charles Wilson sold his Hardware Store to Max Thompson.

Meehan's Cafe was destroyed by fire in February.

During March, Bill Jones sold an interest of his Implement Business to Melvin Groth and Bill Yokum of Dubuque.

Myron Dake of Eldora purchased the Clover Farm Store from Albert Helms.

Morris Barger purchased the Lamont Shoe and Harness Shop from his brother Arlie Barger.

Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Donaldson opened their Coffee Shop

in the Don Fry building in July.

The C. G. W. water tower, an old landmark of Lamont was torn down.

1951

In March Mr. and Mrs. Bill Merrifield sold their tavern to Mr. and Mrs. Watters of Waterloo.

Lowell Carr retired from his duties as postmaster after serving 17½ years.

Lamont Coffee Shop changed hands. Mrs. Forrest Jones, who had been helping the Donaldson's purchased it from them.

In November Mrs. Alan R. Brown opened a dressmaking business called the "Bobbin."

1952

Bids were taken for the drilling of a new well to supply Lamont with water.

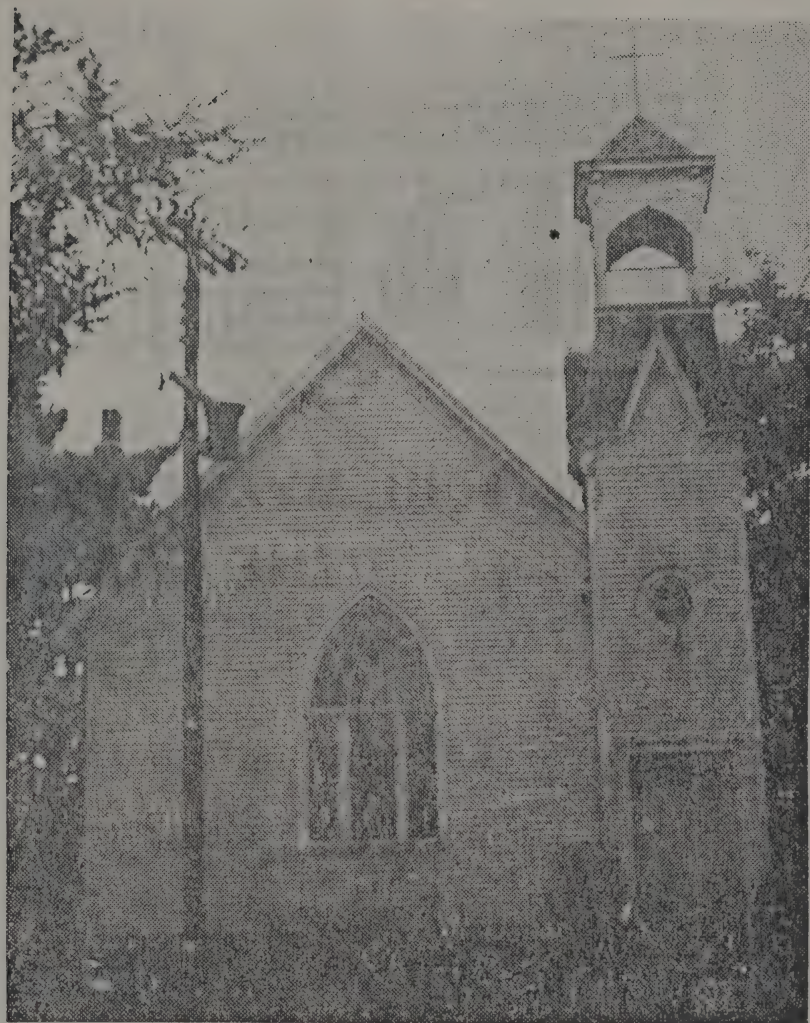
In February Adult Evening Classes were started by the Lamont School for the first time, typing, art, etc.

The Lamont Leader was reduced to four pages a week from eight pages because of the loss of the ready-print service.

In May the old City Park was sold to the Boy Scouts. Work was begun on the Boy Scout building.

1953

In February Mel Groth and Bill Yokum held a public auction of their implements and parts, closing the firm Jones Implement Store.



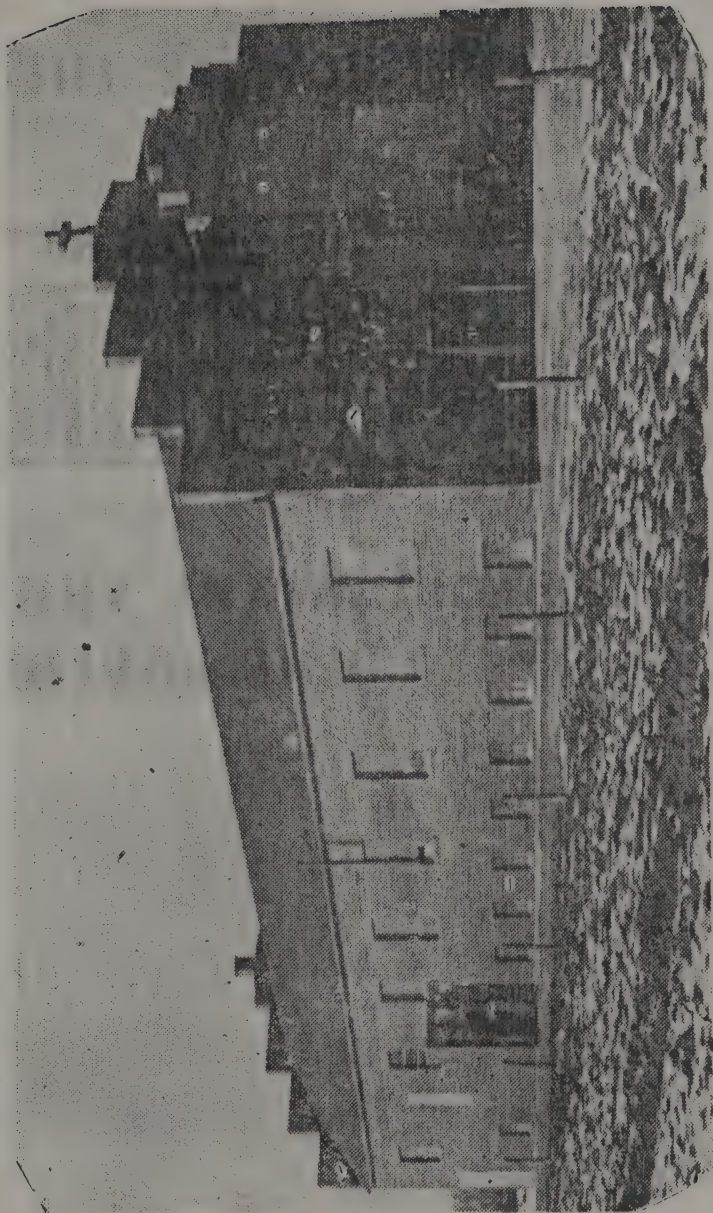
ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1895 and decided to construct a church building in 1903. This structure was finished and dedicated in that same year.

The Rev. H. Baumbach was the first regular pastor, serving from 1901 to 1909.

The church building has been improved in many ways, most of them being done recently. The basement has been finished; the interior of the church has been redecorated; a bell has been installed; and the exterior of the church is to be painted this summer.

The present pastor is Rev. D. W. Hoferer.



ST. MARY'S HALL

The \$75,000 St. Mary's Hall was completed in 1948 with \$28,000 donated labor. The two story hall has complete equipment for a school of religion. The second floor is devoted to social events.

These two items of interest were entered too late to be placed in their respective places.

The National Hotel was built in 1900 and opened for business in January 1901 by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Svoboda.

In the early 1900's, E. A. Cole and Dale Cole operated the Lamont Creamery, which at that time was one of the best Creameries in the State

of Iowa. The board of directors were E. Whitney, John Kash, Tom Houska Sr., Joe Yonda and William Lumbard.

We have worked diligently to make as complete a history of Lamont as possible with the material we had to work with and we are sorry if we have omitted items of importance.

The Leader Office

CITY OFFICERS

Mayor

Dr. R. C. Stewart

Councilmen

Morris Barger, Robert Reed, Almore Ovel

Dean Morris, Steve Ivory

Clerk and Water Superintendent

E. E. Wessels

Treasurer

H. J. Toole

Justice of the Peace

Merle Elliott

City Marshal

James Murray

Constable

Wm. O'Brien

Park Commission

Bess Durham, Lester Ross

LAMONT BUSINESS DIRECTORY IN 1953

Allenstein Produce — Carl Allenstein

Aurora Limestone

Barger Shoe & Repair — Morris Barger

Case Implement Co. — Glenn Gruman

Central Iowa Telephone Co. — Irv Clemens

Chicago Great Western Depot — Bert Snodgrass, Agent

Clark's Briardale Grocery Store — C. F. Clark

Cowles Produce Co. — A. O. Cowles & Sons

Dake's Clover Farm Grocery Store — Myron Dake

Donna's Beauty Shop — Donna Ross

Don's Sinclair Service — Don Thibadeau

Farmers State Savings Bank — E. M. Barz

Fry's Barber Shop, Insurance — Don Fry

Hayes Real Estate — C. E. Hayes

Hazel's Lunch Box — Hazel Jones

Home Cafe — Lyle & Mildred Homewood

Interstate Power Co. — Grover Markham, Dorothy McBride
 Jackman Blacksmith Shop — James Jackman
 Jack's Tavern — Jack Wilcox
 John's Fix-it Shop — John Zuercher
 Jones Hotel — L. E. Jones
 Kreussel Funeral Home, Furniture Store — S. G. Kreussel
 Lamont Elevator — W. I. Sidwell
 Lamont Garage — Jack Hennessey
 Lamont Leader — E. A. Tennis
 Lamont Lumber & Coal Co. — Earl Haskins
 Lamont Post Office — Bob Smith
 Lamont Theatre — Burdette Ross
 Learn Lumber Co. — Dale Learn
 Lorenz Store — Les Lorenz
 Macheak Implement Co. — F. D. Macheak
 Mid-Continent Bulk Plant — F. E. Vanek, John Lindsay
 Miller's Tavern — Joe Miller
 Oldfather Feed Mill — Dale Jones
 Osteopathic Physician — Dr. L. A. Ford
 Radio Repair — John Carr
 Recreation Parlor, Auctioneer — E. E. Wessels
 Reiger's Barber Shop — Hubert Reiger
 Rexall Drug Store — C. W. Hayford
 Rhines Appliance Shop, Funeral Director — Gayle Rhines
 Ross' Dairy — Burdette Ross
 Smith Implement Co. — Martin Smith, Bob Reed
 Smith Motor Service — Everett Smith
 Smitty's D-X Service — Elmer Smith
 Smith Plumbing & Heating — Clifford Smith
 Standard Oil Bulk Plant — Arnold Bowden
 Thompson Hardware — Max Thompson
 Toole & Miller Insurance — H. J. Toole, Dale Miller
 Verbuot's Jack Sprat Grocery Store — F. V. Verbuigt
 Veterinarian — Dr. R. C. Stewart
 Weston's Limestone Quarry — Earl Weston

In addition to the above business places, Lamont has several music teachers, carpenters, masons, seed corn and feed dealers, painters, fur buyers, scrap dealers, and truckers.

Lamont Leader Print

